

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 12, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 12, 2008. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-17 and 20-53 are pending in the application. Claims 9-17, 20-25, 29 and 30 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 20, 29, and 30 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 26-28, 31-53 have been cancelled. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Further, Applicants do not concede that any amended or canceled claim is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the pre-amended claims, canceled claims, and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 27 and 28 have been cancelled with this response. Additionally, claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26 (objected to as allowable but depending from a rejected base claim), as well as to provide the appropriate antecedent basis for the claim term "encrypted data" as requested by the examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 20-25, 31-37 and 47-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Circenis et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,146,496, hereinafter, "*Circenis*") in view of *Dawson et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,543, hereinafter, "*Dawson*"). Applicants have cancelled claims 1-8, 31-37 and 47-53, without prejudice. Accordingly, this rejection is currently moot. Additionally, claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26, objected to as allowable but depending from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 20 and dependent claims 21-25, 29, and 30 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-17 and 38-46 are allowed.

Applicants have amended claim 20 and cancelled claims 26-28, 31-37, 38-46 and 47-53 from further consideration in this application, leaving only allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this case is now in condition for allowance. Also, this amendment is filed to cancel claims that are not in the method class of statutory subject matter. Note however, Applicants do not concede that any cancelled (or pre-amended) claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims, (and other claims) in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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